

Town Meeting



BULLETIN OF AMERICA'S TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR

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What Progress May We Expect in the Next Half Century?

Guest Moderator, ERWIN D. CANHAM

Speakers

GEORGE V. DENNY, Jr.

JAMES R. KILLIAN, Jr.

EARNEST A. HOOTON

FAIRFIELD OSBORN

COMING

June 6, 1950

Are We Fighting Communism Wisely?

June 13, 1950

When Are We Too Old To Work?

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"When Are We Too Old To Work?"



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BULLETIN OF AMERICA'S TOWN MEETING OF THE AIR

GEORGE V. DENNY, JR., MODERATOR



MAY 30, 1950

VOL. 16, No. 5

What Progress May We Expect in the Next Half Century?

Announcer:

Fifteen years ago tonight, on Memorial Day, 1935, an early American tradition—the old New England Town Meeting—was harnessed to our modern means of mass communication, and America's Town Meeting of the Air was born. A nationwide, and now a world-wide, voice was given the familiar cracker barrel in the general store.

The spirit and concept of an institution of our forefathers was given a new dimension when George Denny called to order the first of America's Town Meetings of the Air 15 years and 614 programs ago. On the stage of New York's Town Hall was established a platform for all America, a platform for the materialization of ideas and problems which were to shape our destiny as a nation and as a people.

It is fitting indeed that tonight's program originates from New England—from Boston. And it is appropriate, too, that our host organization is the General Federation of Women's Clubs, meeting in their annual convention, for it was a group of six women who, in 1894, founded the League for Political Education which was later to become our Town Hall in New York City.

Now, to preside over our discussion, here is your guest moderator, Erwin Canham, editor of *The Christian Science Monitor*. Mr. Canham. (Applause)

Moderator Canham:

Good evening, friends. It's a very special pleasure for me to be your guest moderator this evening to help celebrate

the Fifteenth Anniversary of America's Town Meeting and the 59th Anniversary of our hosts, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, which is meeting here in Boston this week.

Like most of you, I am immensely interested in our question this evening, "What Progress May We Expect in the Next Half Century?"

My own earliest recollections of this century are riding in a horse and buggy with my father or mother on news-reporting trips to placid little country towns in the State of Maine. Six miles an hour was good time in that horse and buggy. My latest recollection is of returning from Europe last week by air overnight at 300 miles an hour, which compares with Mr. Denny and his Town Hall party, flying around the world last summer in the equivalent of half a dozen days.

The contrast is by no means all in favor of the airplane. Didn't we all enjoy those spacious old days of childhood in our farm neighborhoods, when we used to help each other harvest crops, build barns, and shovel the snow out of the roads? And I enjoyed, didn't you, waking up in the morning to the songs of the birds and the smell of a good, honest country breakfast and the crackling of open fireplaces?

Perhaps it is nicer to do what I have heard that some people do: lie in bed until eight o'clock and hear the news from all over the world, with all its conflicts and tragedies and triumphs; and to get out from under an electrically heated blanket into a steam-heated room and go to the icebox for canned orange juice and get toast and coffee in a jiffy, with all the modern conveniences; and then take the subway to work.

Maybe it's nicer, but I am not sure. No, Mr. Denny, I am not sure. And I am very much interested in what you, Dr. Killian, Dr. Hooton, and Dr. Osborn are going to suggest about the kind of progress we may expect in the next half century.

So, let's hear first from the new president of that great scientific institution, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Dr. James R. Killian, Jr., who was inaugurated a little more than a year ago as its tenth president, and who is a native of South Carolina, a graduate of M.I.T., a former editor of its *Technology Review*, and who served as executive assistant to the president of M.I.T. and later as vice president until his election to the presidency last year.

And now Dr. Killian. (Applause)

Dr. Killian:

Tonight, I expect to be a buoyant optimist in a sea of pessimism. I believe that out of the limitless cornucopia of science can come, during the next half century, a swelling stream of new concepts, products, and processes which will improve our health, prolong our life, increase our food supply, raise our standard of living, and open new vistas to man's spirit.

I say *can* come, not *will*. Progress in science and the benefits that science can bring to man depend upon his social and spiritual capacity to utilize science humanely.

Destructive war could halt the progress of science. So could totalitarianism. Or a continued stalemate in international relations. Look for a minute at how even the cold war seriously handicaps it by imposing too much secrecy and by depreciating the dignity of the individual through irresponsible, un-American witch hunting.

I believe that science in the years ahead will steadily increase the mastery of our material environment, but only if it is free of these misuses and handicaps. I believe, too, that this steady increase in our understanding of nature can help reduce the hazards of increased population and the depletion of natural resources which quite understandably worry Mr. Hooton and Dr. Osborn.

Scientific knowledge can grow just as fast as population and can thus provide the new materials and the new sources of energy which will be needed to support a larger population. My friends in science confidently forecast, for example, flying at a thousand miles an hour, Mr. Canham, rather than 300; and new controls for plant diseases, new plant hormones, and better chemical control and enrichment of soils—all increasing agricultural yields.

They predict better ways of preserving foods, such as using x-rays for sterilization, rather than heat. They foresee wholly new sources of food through unlocking the mysteries of photosynthesis in living plants, and through the transformation of algae into food for animals and for man.

More efficient use and new sources of energy loom ahead, including the increased use of solar energy for heating our homes, more efficient ways of converting heat into electricity, possibly the use of the earth's internal heat as a major new source of energy, and of course the harnessing of atomic energy as in nuclear-powered ships. The most acute of our

current conservation problems, that of our water supply, may be alleviated along the coast by the efficient conversion of sea water, which, in combination with artificial rain-making and other forms of weather control, may require a wholly new political concept of water control, involving water in the air, in the ocean, and in the ground.

In the years ahead, energy will be conserved and the production of goods increased by the rapid development of automatic control and computation. In fact, this may become the most distinguishing technological characteristic of the second half of the twentieth century. Parenthetically, I expect the application of automatic controls to certain types of manufacturing ultimately to provide more jobs, not fewer, by creating new industries and by reducing costs.

Along with machine computation and improved communication will come better ways of storing and cataloging knowledge. Before the end of the century, biology—the science of life—utilizing the techniques of physics and chemistry, may possibly become the most exciting scientific field, replacing physics. Improvements in the electron microscope and similar devices may enable us to see the smallest units of life and help to reveal the difference between living and nonliving matter.

Disease-combating chemicals, such as penicillin, will be multiplied. Miraculous results will be obtained by treating degenerative diseases, such as arthritis, with hormones. Thus Dr. Osborn, greatly aggravating the problem of population growth, even cancer may be brought under control.

Finding out how hormones act in the body may represent a greater advance in the control of disease and the prolongation of life than the discovery that germs cause disease. Hormone therapy may yield equally miraculous effects on mental disorders, on personality, and, yes, Dr. Hooton, on human behavior.

The scientists whom I have consulted look forward to important syntheses of knowledge, especially in physics. Despite Einstein's brilliant contributions, we have not yet achieved the clarifying, ultimate synthesis of relativity, quantum theory, and the electro-magnetic theory, which could give men a clearer image of what the world is like. This may come in the next 50 years with profound effects on our philosophical and spiritual outlooks. An even more profound result might ensue from the discovery of some presently

undreamed-of biological principle which might illuminate the riddle of life.

Mr. Canham, I've mentioned just a few advances predicted by my panel of scientists, but the most important discoveries to come will not be on this list or any other list, for science moves ahead by unheralded and unpredictable discoveries. It also moves ahead, because intelligent man has faith that new knowledge of any kind, while always dangerous, is worth the risk, and that ignorance is a far greater hazard.

Of course, knowledge may be misused, but I have faith that the power of knowledge, like the energy of the atom, is not beyond man's capacity to master for humane needs. (Applause)

Moderator Canham:

Thank you, Dr. Killian. Boston is certainly well represented here tonight, for our next speaker is the chairman of the department of anthropology at Harvard University. His books, *Up from the Ape*; *Apes, Men, and Morons*, and *Twilight of Man* have gained him a wide audience in this country and abroad.

Dr. Ernest Hooton became interested in criminology while studying Latin and Greek at the University of Wisconsin and switched from the classics to anthropology while he was at Oxford as a Rhodes scholar.

Dr. Hooton, what prospects do you see for our progress for the next half century? And if you have to say no, please give us your reasons. (Applause)

Dr. Hooton:

Dr. Killian has opened to you a vista of scientific achievement in which he has widely stressed those advances of science which will probably further human happiness. Of these I approve, but my concern is with the animal, man himself, and with his behavior, which has lagged far behind technological progress.

Human relations may have improved somewhat during the last half-million years. Many of the earliest fossil men were killed and eaten by their fellows. Today, cannibalism is rare, and most human beings die without having had their skulls smashed. A sizable minority believes in the brotherhood of man, and tries to act accordingly.

However, warfare has increased in scope and deadliness. Patrick Henry once exclaimed, "Gentlemen may cry peace,

peace, but there is no peace." This cry may well have been uttered first by newly articulate beings hardly emancipated from apedom. This cry is still futile, because in the mass of mankind there persists a brutish cruelty, blind selfishness, and lust for domination transmitted from savage ancestors. There are many kinds of human nature, but war promotes the survival of some of the worst.

In the past fifty years, technology has advanced enormously. Man has acquired control over some of the forces of nature, but has no more self-control and no more intelligence, without which human behavior cannot improve.

An irresponsible science has obliterated the geographical barriers which once hindered undesirable contacts between isolated peoples. It has also put into the hands of predatory men terribly destructive weapons wherewith to arm the ignorant hordes which they dominate.

Organizations designed to promote human happiness are repeatedly set up by the enlightened few, and, as often, struck aside by the benighted many. Some religions have splendid codes of ethics, and purport to correct human conduct, but they have succeeded for the most part only in inculcating their beliefs in the supernatural and in their rituals and symbolism.

The basic cause of warfare, apart from human competitiveness and stupidity, is overpopulation. It results from families, groups, and nations reproducing in excess of their economic resources. Such reckless breeding increases population pressure, so that expanding groups impinge upon their neighbors and attempt to wrest from them their territories, their food, and their freedom.

The first cause of human overbreeding is uncontrolled reproductive desire coupled with ignorance and irresponsibility. The second is the teaching of religions that encourage or require excessive breeding of devotees, theoretically to insure their salvation in the future world, but possibly, sometimes, for the covered purpose also of recruiting adherents to the faith. The third is the totalitarian policy of building up manpower for military conquest.

If we could teach mankind to stop overbreeding, most of our domestic and international problems would disappear. We could get rid of war, because there would be room, food, and employment for everyone. But the level of human intelligence in the mass is so low that a proper control of breeding could be secured only by compulsive measures. These cannot be enforced as long as the leaders of religions and of mili-

taristic states can insure their own power by pandering to the strongest of human instincts.

We have a nascent science of the total human individual which can improve his chances for success and happiness by teaching him to know himself, his physical, psychological, and sociological capacities. We have, too, the more remote prospect of actually breeding better men by acquiring or applying knowledge of human heredity and of the environmental conditions that foster superior types.

But this science cannot be cultivated in a world at war. Our foolhardy technology of destruction has been so disseminated that any overpopulated state under vicious leadership can precipitate a world war. That is the penalty we must pay for spending our brains upon improving machines rather than upon improving man himself. We cannot have a better world until we have better human beings. (*Applause*)

Moderator Canham:

Thank you, Dr. Hooton. I am sure that a large percentage of our audience tonight has read Fairfield Osborn's book, *Our Plundered Planet*. It's the kind of book that shocks one into the realization that we need to do a good deal more thinking than we have done about those things necessary to our survival on this planet. Dr. Osborn has been president of the New York Zoological Society for many years, and is president and founder of the Conservation Foundation, which is devoted to showing us what we need to know about conserving those things by which we live—our natural resources. Dr. Fairfield Osborn. (*Applause*)

Dr. Osborn:

I'm wondering what Dr. Killian and Dr. Hooton mean by progress. What do we all mean by progress? There are various and many kinds of it, and almost everybody has a different idea about it.

Are we talking about advances in science or in the arts? Do new inventions, the building of faster airplanes, of taller skyscrapers spell progress? How about the discovery of atomic energy? Is that progress? A lot of people say that progress consists of a constantly rising standard of living, which to most of us Americans, I'm afraid, means the ownership of just one more gadget.

For my part, I think that none of these, nor all of them put together, necessarily spell real progress. Surely we can agree

that progress is the attainment of those conditions that make for contentment and happiness.

Nor can there be contentment or happiness unless the primary needs for life are available. These primary needs are food supply and the other basic requirements for decent living. All of these things come from the fruitfulness and productivity of the earth.

It is true that we Americans do not need to worry about these things, at least, not yet. But even now, with our growing population, we have cause to begin to be uneasy. For example, we are threatened right today with new dust bowls. Read this morning's *New York Times*, by the way. And forty million Americans in various regions and communities are face to face with water-supply problems, some of them of a really critical nature.

How about the rest of the world? For the first time in our history, we now have to give thought to how people in other countries are getting along, for we are coming to realize that their welfare has a direct influence upon ours. The picture is far from a happy one. Today, half the people in the world have so little food that they are hardly able to keep alive. Further, the population of the earth has increased from one billion people to more than two billion people within the last four generations. And the prospect is that there will be another five to six hundred million people on the earth, barring some cataclysm, within the next 50 years.

I believe that this lack of balance between the numbers of people and the living resources that are available to them is the main cause of present social and international political tensions. Consequently, when we ask, as we do tonight, "What Progress May We Expect in the Next Half Century?" it seems clear to me that the answer will revolve around the question whether we can so manage and cultivate the earth's resources to provide a basic living for people in all countries. Rapidly increasing populations are making this doubly difficult. All other tides in the rise of progress will prove temporary and even meaningless unless we find the answer to that question.

The wise use of life-supporting resources, which include forests, agricultural lands, water resources, and all kinds of animal life, has come to be known as conservation. The meaning of conservation is not simply one of methods or techniques. In its broadest sense it is a way of life. It involves processes that are social and ethical as well as material. It has to do with

economy and law. It involves questions as to numbers of people. It calls for far wider application of existing techniques and knowledges, most of which are now at hand.

Science and education are its allies. It is a man's understanding of the relationship of human beings to the workings of nature. Oh, I wish Dr. Killian were right that science could take over and economize nature. Its ultimate purpose aims not only at the subsistence but at the welfare of all people.

If I have to make a single answer to the question, "What Progress May We Expect in the Next Half Century?" I'll have to frame it in these terms: We have it within our power to make unlimited advances in all the fields of human interests and activity, assuming we take care of first things first, which is another way of saying that we must above all provide for the basic needs of life.

This goes for our own country, and for every other country. It calls for the adoption of adequate conservation programs both on a national and an international scale. We Americans have barely made a start in this task, and the majority of countries, with rapidly rising populations, have not even begun to cope with it. I believe there can be no general and sustained progress in human affairs unless this problem is met. (*Applause*)

Moderator Canham:

Thank you very much, Dr. Osborn. Even a guest moderator would experience difficulty in presenting George Denny to this audience, for most of you have known him over these years as the ever skillful, but always detached, presiding officer.

Now, Mr. Denny, like the rest of your listeners who have often wondered about your opinions on the many controversial questions your guests have discussed on Town Meeting, we want to know what you think about the prospects for progress in the next half of this very controversial twentieth century. Mr. George Denny. (*Applause*)

Mr. Denny:

Thank you, Mr. Canham. I read in the papers not long ago about a gentleman from Gloucester who, having reached his 100th birthday, was asked by a newspaper reporter, "Well sir, I guess you've seen a good many changes in your lifetime."

"Yep," snapped the old man, "and I've been agin all of 'em."

I don't think the old gentleman objected to the changes

referred to by Dr. Killian. He might have been "agin" the changes effected by Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Truman, but his happiness, Mr. Osborn, was found by embracing the status quo.

He resented the enlargement of his neighborhood to two billions of human beings, and like so many of us he thought he could avoid facing up to the fact that change is the fundamental law of life, that all of us must have a part in resolving our problems or abdicate to dictatorship.

This is a dangerous and exciting time to be alive. I'm sure Dr. Hooton agrees that we grow by doing things that seem impossible, and the situation that we face today is almost impossible. While we are enjoying more comforts and conveniences than any people have ever known, our arms are bulging with terrifying weapons of mass destruction. And in our hearts and minds are confusion, uncertainty, doubt, and paralyzing fear, for there in the dark forest ahead of us we see the ugly faces of our ancient enemies—ignorance, prejudice, greed, jealousy, misunderstanding, injustice, and war.

Are they the shadows of something within ourselves, or some outside enemy? How do we go about fighting these enemies, when we can't be sure which side they are on?

With all our material progress, Dr. Killian, we know in our hearts that we are not equipped with the proper weapons to destroy these foul monsters of evil. So tonight I ask you to consider a very special weapon which I hope we can forge together to insure our survival through this great century.

Let's see first how we achieved our present material progress. Several hundreds of years ago, the courageous men of

THE GUEST MODERATOR

ERWIN D. CANHAM—Dr. Canham is editor of *The Christian Science Monitor* and is a radio news commentator for the American Broadcasting Company. He is president of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

On the staff of the *Monitor* since his graduation from Bates College (B. A., 1925), he has served as reporter, chief foreign correspondent, head of the Washington Bureau, general news editor, managing editor, and editor (since 1945). In addition, he has made nation-wide political surveys and has covered many international conferences.

In 1946, Dr. Canham received the degree of Doctor of Literature from Bates College, and in 1948, a Doctorate in Letters of Humanity from Boston University. He was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford in 1936.

science learned how to use their minds honestly to find universal principles in the world of material relationships. They organized these into physical sciences, and through them we built our machine age.

In our search for universal principles of human relations, unfortunately, we've conditioned our thinking by the scores of group loyalties to which we are attached—race, nationalism, economic status, political parties, and so forth and so on. Imagine a chemist in one of your laboratories, Dr. Killian, saying that he would work only with laws discovered by Republicans. Or one of your assistants, Dr. Hooton, to work only with scientific laws discovered by Democrats.

We cannot expect our minds and hearts to yield up the right answers unless we search honestly for universal principles of human relations. Jesus did not say only, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make ye free." What He said in full was, "If ye follow in my word, then are ye my disciples, indeed, and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make ye free." And His word constituted true and workable principles of human relations which we failed largely to practice.

When our founding fathers drew up our constitutions, they provided for a representative republic. They didn't believe at that time in a pure democracy. They were mindful of the admonition of Socrates that a democracy was possible only as far as the human voice could carry. But today, whether we like it or not, democracy is upon us; and we must adapt our educational and political systems to these changed conditions, or perish under the iron heel of despots who have perfected the art of making a mockery of democracy and enslaving people in the name of liberation.

Now those of you who have been following Town Meeting for the past fifteen years know that we are attempting to apply this basic principle to education in what we call the Town Hall movement. The Town Hall plan provides three essential steps in modern education—stimulation, information, and assimilation. This radio program is designed to stimulate honest and objective thinking about our common problems. You can have one in your own community, just as they have in Columbus, Ohio, today.

Our Town Hall lectures provide information and instruction by outstanding authorities in their respective fields—the men who made atomic energy, leading controversial political figures, the men and women who are helping to shape our

THE SPEAKERS' COLUMN

GEORGE V. DENNY, Jr.—The president of Town Hall, Inc., and founder and director of America's Town Meeting of the Air, George V. Denny, Jr., was born in Washington, D. C. He graduated from the University of North Carolina with a Bachelor of Science in commerce in 1922, and received an LL.D. from Temple University in 1940.

Before coming to Town Hall, he was instructor of dramatic production at the University of North Carolina, and manager of W. B. Feakins, Inc. Dr. Denny has been director of the Institute of Arts and Sciences of Columbia University and associate director of the League of Political Education. The author of various magazine articles, he is the editor of *Faith for Today*.

EARNEST A. HOOTON—Professor of anthropology at Harvard University and curator of somatology at the Peabody Museum, Dr. Hooton is also the author of a number of books on anthropology. Some of these are: *Up from the Ape*; *Crime and the Man*; *Twilight of Man*; *Why Men Behave Like Apes and Vice Versa*. He has also written numerous papers on physical anthropology.

A graduate of Lawrence College (Appleton, Wisconsin), he did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin (M.A., 1908; Ph.D., 1911) and was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University from 1910-1913. He received a diploma in anthropology from the latter university.

Dr. Hooton is a fellow of the Royal Anthropology Institute and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and is a member of the American Anthropology Association and the National Academy of Science.

JAMES R. KILLIAN, Jr.—Dr. Killian assumed the presidency of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in October, 1948, having served successively since 1939 as executive assistant to the president, executive vice president, and vice president.

Between the time of his graduation from M. I. T. (B.S., 1926), and joining the faculty, he was employed as editor of *The Technology Review*.

Dr. Killian was awarded the President's Certificate of Merit in 1948. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, a member of the Society for Engineering Education, and a contributor to scientific magazines.

FAIRFIELD OSBORN—Mr. Osborn has been president of the New York Zoological Society since 1940. Following his graduation from Princeton (A.B., 1909), he did graduate work at Cambridge University, England.

Mr. Osborn is president of the Conservation Foundation; he served on Secretary Krug's advisory commission on conservation; and he has been UNESCO's advisory expert on UNSCUUR. In addition, he has served on many other commissions and is a member of numerous associations devoted to wild life conservation and allied subjects.

The author of *Our Plundered Planet*, Fairfield Osborn is a contributor of numerous articles to technical publications.

destiny today. Our popular short courses in seminars provide an opportunity for more intensive study of a variety of subjects in the field of human relations. Taken together, they make the beginnings of what we call a Town Hall.

We know that it's too late to turn today's perilous problems over to a new generation, and that the adults of today must solve them if freedom is to endure. Our plan calls for the establishment of hundreds of adult education centers all over America, where the many streams of conflicting ideas and interests in this great land of ours can meet together in an atmosphere of tolerance, reason, and justice, to generate the power of an honestly informed public opinion on which sound decisions may be based. Town Hall does not include a program of political action, but provides the educational process that precedes action and attempts to insure wise action.

This is the tool of which I spoke. And I'm confident, Dr. Hooton, that we can make more progress with it in the next half century than we have without it in the last half-million years.

Actually, the Town Hall is but a forge in which the tools of freedom may be hammered out on the anvil of truth. The heat of honest discussion has many times in our history increased our understanding, strengthened our unity, and has set us on a higher road to progress.

We may have progress unlimited in the next half century, if we'll make full use of these tools which were first forged by our ancestors in a Town Meeting on a tiny ship called the Mayflower anchored off Provincetown, November 11, 1620, and if we have in our hearts, as they had, a steadfast faith in the laws of divine providence. (*Applause*)

Moderator Canham:

Now, ladies and gentlemen, while we get ready for our question period, I am sure that you, our listeners, will be interested in the following message.

Announcer:

From the National Convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in Boston, Massachusetts, Town Hall and the American Broadcasting Company are presenting the fifteenth Anniversary program of America's Town Meeting of the Air. If you'd like a copy of this significant Town Meeting, you may obtain the complete text, including questions and answers to follow, by sending 10 cents in coin, not stamps,

to Town Hall, New York 18, New York. Ask for the Fifteenth Anniversary Town Meeting Bulletin.

To observe our anniversary, we have just published a beautiful 80-page book called "*Good Evening, Neighbors*," reviewing in words and pictures the dramatic story of Town Meeting's fifteen years on the air. You will find photographs and exciting quotations from many of these memorable discussions, interesting articles by Harry A. Overstreet, Walter Ruether, Herman W. Steinkraus, Norman Cousins, and others.

And then there are eight double-page spreads illustrating Chester Williams' report on last summer's Round-the-World Town Meeting, with pictures of broadcasts taken in the twelve world capitals we visited. You'll enjoy every one of the 80 pages in "*Good Evening, Neighbors*." For your copy, send \$1 to Town Hall, New York 18, New York, and if you also would like a copy of tonight's Town Meeting, include 10 cents additional. Remember, "*Good Evening, Neighbors*," the complete story of America's Town Meeting for 15 years, and the price is only \$1.

And now for our question period we return you to Dr. Canham.

QUESTIONS, PLEASE!

Dr. Canham: We are all ready for a question from the lady in this aisle, a question, I believe, addressed to Dr. Osborn. Will you give your question?

Lady: My question is for Dr. Killian. How near are we to atomic energy being used for constructive purposes instead of destructive purposes?

Dr. Killian: I don't know that anyone can answer that question at the present time, but certainly it is true that certain types of atomic energy are already being used for constructive purposes, particularly for purposes of health. The use of tracer techniques, for example, is what I mean. But if the question you are asking is how long will it be before we have atomic power, I think that's anybody's guess.

Dr. Canham: Thank you, very much. Let's have another question from the gentleman also over in the left aisle.

Man: This is to Mr. Denny. Do you have any recommendations for increasing the effectiveness of our democracy by increasing the participation of its citizens?

Mr. Denny: Thank you very much. Yes, indeed I have lots of recommendations, but most of them are embodied in the speech I just made: More and more Town Halls in every community throughout the nation. And I also have a little booklet that some of you have seen and subscribed to called "*What You Can Do About It*" with twelve recommendations. I can't read them all here now, but the essence of it is in the talk I just made.

Lady: My question is for Dr. Fairfield Osborn. Are we honest with ourselves when we can call anything progress that gives man confusion and doubt instead of peace of mind and happiness?

Dr. Osborn: Well, lady, you and I work exactly down the same street together. I just agree with you totally. Of course, what we're striving for primarily is that. I've given one reason. I wouldn't want anybody here to think it is the only reason, but, as you gathered from my whole talk, I believe, above everything, that we need to strive for contentment and happiness.

Dr. Canham: Mr. Denny would like to comment on this same question.

Mr. Denny: This is a dangerous thing for me to do, because Fairfield Osborn is one of my trustees of Town Hall now, one of my bosses. However, knowing that he will understand this comment, I'd like to make it in these terms. Dr. Osborn, I would like to just answer that question from exactly the opposite point of view. I think that we can only attain real happiness and real satisfaction by going through the pain of confusion, bewilderment, and doubt, and that the beginning of wisdom is when we do begin to doubt, and when we are confused, and when we have to think things out for ourselves. And I think progress is very important in this day and time now, because it does stimulate doubt and confusion and makes all of us go through the very painful process of thinking for ourselves. (Applause)

Dr. Canham: Thank you very much, Mr. Denny. And now let's have a question from the extreme right, addressed to Dr. Hooton.

Man: Can we have a real meeting of minds throughout the world without breaking iron curtains?

Dr. Hooton: Without breaking iron curtains? No, I think not. I think we not only will have to break iron curtains, but we'll have to break a lot of thick heads, before we can reach agreement. (Applause)

Dr. Canham: Thank you, Dr. Hooton. And now let's have a question from the lady in the aisle to the left.

Lady: To Dr. Killian. Is it progress to prolong human life through science when, at the age of 65 or 70, people who are at the zenith of their mental powers are confined to a life of uselessness due to compulsory retirement?

Dr. Killian: I think that's a very acute social problem that we've got to face up to in this country. I think the difficulty in taking care of people who are living longer and longer is an economic and a sociological problem, and we've got to find ways of providing employment for those people so long as they are usefully able to be employed. (Applause)

Dr. Canham: Let me add that that very question is going to be the subject of the entire Town Meeting discussion two weeks from tonight, so everybody can get a full answer at that time. Now let's have a question from the center aisle, a question addressed, I believe, to Dr. Osborn.

Lady: Can you say that anything that does not contribute to the happiness of people is progress?

Dr. Canham: I believe that question was already asked just a moment ago, and pretty doubly answered. Let's take a question from the next aisle.

Lady: Mr. Denny. Will the next half century bring education and a place in the sun to the present underprivileged of America? Would this mean the cancellation of war debts?

Mr. Denny: Well, I don't quite see how you can mix those two double-barreled things. It seems to me that you're shooting buckshot and rifleshot at the same time. However, I do think that it's entirely up to us. We are a free people. The initiative is in our hands, and there never was a country that had such freedom and such opportunity for the initiative, genius, and imagination of its own people to be developed. And it's strictly up to us. (Applause)

Dr. Canham: Thank you very much, Mr. Denny. And now let's have a question again to Dr. Killian from the lady in the first aisle at my left.

Lady: Your reference to cancer. What is the current status of cancer control?

Dr. Killian: I'm afraid that a physician would have to answer that question. I was predicting the future and not talking about the present, but certainly one of the greatest battles ever being waged in science is being waged against cancer at the present time. And I'm confident that we will make progress.

Dr. Canham: Thank you very much, Dr. Killian. Now let's have a question for Professor Hooton.

Man: Robert Malthus feared increased population. Scientists and humanitarians proved him wrong. Would the world be happier with fewer people?

Dr. Hooton: I think the world would be happier with fewer people because there would be more opportunities for all, and we might hope if we had fewer people that they would be of a better quality, which is what we particularly need. (Applause)

Lady: Dr. Osborn, the animals in a well-kept zoo might have their basic needs cared for, but is this the progress we really want? What about our freedom?

Dr. Osborn: Well, I want to tell you that if you'll come down to the Bronx Zoo, I just can't tell you how happy they are. (Laughter) I really am worrying more about the human animals, as Dr. Hooton is, than I am about those beautiful animals in the Bronx Zoo. Their environment's good, and they have plenty of room, and they've plenty of food. I think that we need to consider the workings of nature and the processes—the biological processes—of life. I think it's serious, and I think Dr. Killian is right. We've been through fifty years of great developments of the physical and chemical sciences. And I hope he's right. I hope the next 50 years will be largely dedicated to the contemplation of the true workings of biological sciences.

Dr. Canham: Thank you, Dr. Osborn, you had me worried for a moment. I thought temporarily you were advocating geese for all of us. (Laughter) Now let's have a question for Mr. Denny from the first aisle.

Lady: When will women realize their responsibility and place in the world and set a high standard for womanhood?

Mr. Denny: What a question! I think women have already realized their responsibility, and I don't know of any group anywhere in the world who is beginning to exercise their responsibility more than the women right here in America. I just hope they'll stop talking about equal rights and will assume their prerogatives as leaders in their community and as leaders of their menfolk who've made a pretty bad mess of things during this past 50 years. (Applause)

And lest any of you think that that's just flattery because this is a meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, I mean exactly *that*, to my fellowmen wearing pants. We've made an awful mess of things for 50 years, using purely the

rational process. I think we'd better turn to our womenfolk and respond in some degree to their capacity for leadership with their marvelous sixth-sense intuition, wisdom from much higher sources than we seem to have it. I think the women can do, are doing, and should do a great deal more than they are doing in solving the problems of human relations. (*Applause*)

Dr. Canham: Thank you. Thank you very much, Mr. Denny. I think I have to assure the audience, visible and invisible, that to the best of my knowledge, Mr. Denny is not running for any political office—even the presidency of the National Federation of Women's Clubs. (*Laughter and applause*)

Now, let's have a question from the aisle directly in front of me.

Man: President Killian, Dr. Hooton has spoken of irresponsible science. What do you and your colleagues consider to be the responsibilities of science and of scientists?

Dr. Killian: My first suggestion on the responsibility of sciences and scientists is that they should advance knowledge. If we look back and think what Newton was up against or what Einstein was up against, and whether they should have sat down before proceeding with their great and important work to try to decide whether it was going to have this social effect or that social effect, we can well see what might have been the influence on their great discoveries. I think that that is a very difficult thing to do. I think we have got to assume that the advance of knowledge in the long run is going to be good. Otherwise, we've got to assume that ignorance is better than knowledge, and I don't think that's a tenable conclusion.

Secondly, I would say that all professional men, be they scientists or doctors or lawyers, in a period such as we are living in at the present time, must be socially responsible men. They must be aware of the social problems we face. They must do everything they can to alleviate the problem and to work toward the human happiness that Dr. Osborn has spoken of. (*Applause*)

Lady: Dr. Hooton, have you a remedy or method in mind by which we can lessen overpopulation? (*Laughter and applause*)

Dr. Hooton: Certainly. We could lessen overpopulation by ceasing to encourage it in all sorts of ways; by stopping propagandizing in favor of proliferating sick souls to live in starved bodies. Specifically, we could lessen it by teaching

people how to control their reproductive processes in accordance with their ability properly to raise and nourish their children. (*Applause*)

Dr. Canham: Now, it's time for a question for Dr. Osborn.

Lady: Dr. Osborn, do you believe we will be successful in reaching the moon in the next half century? (*Laughter*)

Dr. Osborn: We certainly have had a lot of wonderful questions here tonight. No, I don't. I think we've got too much sense to try.

I'd like to say one thing, supplementing Dr. Hooton's answer, and I know that he'll forgive me. You see, many great cultures in the past have recognized the relationships of the numbers of people to their environment. That's nothing new. This isn't a recommendation Dr. Earnest Hooton's making that hasn't been seen by humankind many times in the past, historically, and I think that's the point that we should have in mind.

Dr. Canham: President Killian wants to comment on the same question.

Dr. Killian: I think that interplanetary travel may be possible, but I think that if it ever comes about that we have a chance to visit another planet we'll hurry back to the world, because it's a better place to live. (*Laughter and applause*)

Dr. Canham: That's on the whole the most encouraging thing that's been said all evening. And now, let's have a question for Mr. Denny from the lady in the middle aisle.

Lady: Mr. Denny, how can we help the other peoples of the world to understand the best in the United States instead of our faults?

Mr. Denny: That's a very tough assignment, because the people in the rest of the world are being bombarded by the most skillful, demoniacal, diabolical propaganda—and effective propaganda—that the world has ever known. A democracy has within its framework certain weaknesses which can be played up, distorted, lied about; and the men in Moscow are doing a magnificent job of it. I would like to give you a prescription, but it would take a little too long to say exactly what I think we could do. Among the things, however, that I think we could do is the kind of thing we did last summer—by taking this Round-the-World Seminar to other nations and letting them see just how Americans behave firsthand. That was considered very effective propaganda of the good things about our American way of life, and is so regarded in all the twelve capitals that we visited.

Lady: Dr. Killian, machines are producing our products more rapidly than men can. What is to become of the men whom the machines are replacing?

Dr. Killian: Before answering this question, may I comment upon the previous question to Mr. Denny? I think another way that we can make great progress in furthering international understanding is through education, through sending our students to other countries, and getting foreign students to come to this country in as great numbers as we can possibly take care of. Enormous progress is being made in that direction at the present time, and I'm sure that we can do more.

Coming now to your question, I think that, while not an economist, I would venture the statement that the increased production that machines have brought about has resulted not only in a higher standard of living but in increased employment. I do not believe that—in the long run—more efficient productive processes—because they increase wealth—will ever result in throwing people out of work on a net basis.

Dr. Canham: Thank you very much, Dr. Killian. Now, let's take a question from the aisle on my left.

Lady: I have a question for Dr. Hooton. Science is converting our food needs into vitamin pills and capsule food. Will not human beings become hour-glass figures as the result?
(Laughter)

Dr. Hooton: Human beings are, apparently, getting more elongate, more slender, and on the whole rather more weak. Perhaps the vitamin situation will improve this, but perhaps the best thing to do would be to go back to the unprocessed, unmanufactured diet which savages have, in which they eat everything that they can chew down and thereby manage to get all of the right nutriments. Whether they're in the vitamins or not, I don't know. I've tried them, and it's never had any effect upon me. (Laughter)

Dr. Canham: Dr. Hooton, that doesn't sound at all nice. Now, let's have a question from the center aisle.

Lady: My question is addressed to Dr. Osborn. Do you think we will be able to provide for the basic needs of everyone during the next 50 years—and how?

Dr. Osborn: You mean in the world? I wish I did. I don't see how we can do it. I think the main barrier is the thing that we're so richly blessed with in this country—which is educated people. But I think the problem is the fact that most of the minimum-line people in the world—and there are about a billion of them—are totally illiterate. Your problem is a

come-on problem. Can they be educated at the same time they're taught ways and means — basic means — of sound agriculture? And I can't say I'm optimistic.

Man: My question is addressed to Mr. Denny. Since material scientists tell us that our material universe is hedged about with finite limitations, is not true progress to be found in the limitless moral field?

Mr. Denny: The answer is, "Yes."

Dr. Canham: Thank you very much. That answer spoke volumes. Let's have a question from the aisle to my left.

Lady: My question is to Dr. Killian. Do you think that human rights as drawn and adopted by the United Nations will become a reality in the next 50 years?

Dr. Killian: I hope so. I think there is a very real opportunity that, at least for a portion of the world, they can become a reality. May I again comment upon the preceding question? I think the limitless world feeling about which we have been talking can be furthered by arts of communication such as Town Meeting of the Air, by technical and engineering means, and that science can contribute toward that objective.

Mr. Canham: We have time for a very quick question. Let's have it from the center aisle to Dr. Hooton.

Lady: How can today's mother best overcome her fears about the future, so as to give her children the security they must have to face that future?

Dr. Hooton: I think that today's mother will just have to draw upon the infinite resources of feminine courage to face this problem.

Dr. Canham: Thank you all very much. Now, while our speakers are preparing their summaries of tonight's question, there is a special message of interest to you.

Announcer: Last night, many of you heard a documentary program prepared by ABC, including many of the dramatic highlights of America's Town Meeting for the past 15 years. Tonight, you've heard a special anniversary program which we are sure our regular Town Meeting listeners will want to preserve. As usual, this entire program is published in a convenient pocket-sized edition which you may have by sending 10 cents to Town Hall, New York 18, New York.

We wish we could send to all of you, free of charge, our beautiful 80-page anniversary publication, entitled, *Good Evening, Neighbors*, which contains the dramatic highlights of many of our best programs, the story of the origin and growth of Town Meeting, the story in words and pictures of

how Town Meeting is produced and broadcast across the nation. We would like to send it to you free, but we can't. We will, however, send it to you at cost, which is \$1, including postage. So for your copy of *Good Evening, Neighbors*, send \$1 to Town Hall, New York 18, New York.

And now for the summaries of tonight's discussion, here is Dr. Canham.

Dr. Canham: In place of our summaries tonight, as you've noticed, we extended the question period to give you a greater opportunity for discussion. May I on behalf of Town Hall warmly thank our local auspices, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, for their generous hospitality, especially Mrs. J. L. Blair Buck, the retiring president, and Mrs. Hiram C. Houghton, the incoming president? We hope that the women's clubs of America will continue listening to Town Meeting during the next half century.

Next week, your Town Meeting originates in Washington, D. C., in Clendenin Hall at American University, with the timely subject, "Are We Fighting Communism Wisely?" The speakers will be Senator Warren Magnuson, Democrat of Washington, and Senator Karl E. Mundt, Republican of South Dakota. Tickets are available at radio station WMAL in the Trans Lux Building, Washington.

The following week, the subject will be, "When Are We Too Old To Work?" Our speakers will be Dr. Howard A. Rusk, the Associate Editor of *The New York Times*, and William G. Caples, the Manager of Industrial Relations of the Inland Steel Company. So listen next week, and every week, for the sound of the Crier's bell.